



Fact Sheet: Loretta Lynch, Nominee for Attorney General of the United States

The Attorney General is Critical to Safeguarding Our National Security and Constitutional Rights

As the leader of the Department of Justice, the Attorney General is the Nation's chief law enforcement officer. As the head of the DOJ, the U.S. Attorney General is responsible for important law enforcement activities that make us all safer. The DOJ protects the American people investigating and disrupting threats to our safety and national security and also brings criminals to justice.

The Attorney General is the nation's top defender of every American's Constitutional rights. As the chief lawyer of the United States, the Attorney General is charged with defending each American's right to privacy, protecting Americans from violent crime, and enforcing federal voting protections. [DOJ, [11/11/14](#); White House, accessed [1/26/15](#); DOJ, [1/29/14](#)]

Loretta Lynch Is Extraordinarily Well-Qualified to Serve as the U.S. Attorney General

Ms. Lynch has twice served as U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of New York, after her nominations were confirmed unanimously by the Senate. When Ms. Lynch was nominated to be the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of New York (EDNY) in 2000, her nomination was reported favorably by the GOP led Judiciary Committee (Sen. Hatch as Chairman) and confirmed by voice vote in the Republican-held Senate. In 2010, when she was re-nominated to this post, Ms. Lynch was again reported favorably by the Judiciary Committee and confirmed by voice vote in the Democrat-held Senate. The U.S. Attorney's Office for the EDNY is the federal prosecutor's office responsible for federal criminal and civil investigations and cases in Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island, and Long Island, New York. [DOJ, accessed [1/27/15](#); Senate Judiciary Committee Questionnaire for Non-Judicial Nominees, [12/01/14](#); New York Daily News, [11/11/14](#); CNN, [11/7/14](#); THOMAS, [12/15/00](#); THOMAS, [4/22/10](#)]

Ms. Lynch has built an impressive legal career in both the public and private sectors. Prior to her first tenure as U.S. Attorney for the EDNY, Ms. Lynch spent over a decade from 1990-2001 working in the Office of the U.S. Attorney for the EDNY, rising in the ranks from an Assistant U.S. Attorney, to the Deputy Chief of General Crimes, to the Chief of Intake and Arraignments, to the Chief Assistant U.S. Attorney, to the interim-U.S. Attorney, and finally to the position of U.S. Attorney. She then practiced for 8 years as a partner at a prominent national law firm. She returned to public service in 2010 when she began her second tenure as U.S. Attorney for the EDNY. [DOJ, accessed [1/27/15](#); Senate Judiciary Committee Questionnaire for Non-Judicial Nominees, [12/01/14](#); DOJ, accessed [1/27/15](#); THOMAS, [12/15/00](#)]

Ms. Lynch received her A.B., cum laude, from Harvard College in 1981 and her J.D. from Harvard Law School in 1984. Ms. Lynch began her legal career at Cahill Gordon & Reindel, LLP in New York. [DOJ, accessed [1/27/15](#); Senate Judiciary Committee Questionnaire for Non-Judicial Nominees, [12/01/14](#)]

Loretta Lynch’s experience extends beyond her work as a federal prosecutor. In addition to her tenure as a U.S. Attorney and her service in the Office of the U.S. Attorney for the EDNY, Ms. Lynch was also a partner at a New York law firm; served as a member of the Board of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York; served as Special Counsel to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in Tanzania; and served as a member of the New York State Commission on Public Integrity. [Senate Judiciary Committee Questionnaire for Non-Judicial Nominees, [12/01/14](#)].

Loretta E. Lynch has a long history of being tough on crime – and winning.

Ms. Lynch’s 30-year legal career has given her tremendous preparation to be the Attorney General. Since 2010, as the U.S. Attorney for the EDNY, she has helped to prosecute 30 defendants of mortgage fraud and to secure 29 mortgage fraud convictions; to prosecute over 100 individual defendants for wire, securities, and commodities fraud; to indict over 55 defendants in sex trafficking cases, rescuing over 110 victims of sex trafficking; and to bring 173 prosecutions for child exploitation. Her experience will be a great help to her at “the helm at the Justice Department” and “has given her background in the key issues faced by the Justice Department daily.” [Politico, [12/23/14](#); DOJ, 1/23/15; CNN, [11/7/15](#)]

- **Michael Moore, President of the National District Attorneys Association:** “Her experience prosecuting terrorism related cases has earned her office the reputation of being a leading voice on national security issues, a vital component to protecting our nation’s citizens and promoting public safety.”
- **Louis J. Freeh, former FBI Director and Chairman Emeritus of Pepper Hamilton LLP:** Ms. Lynch’s “experience provides her with the good judgment and knowledge to be a fair and judicious Attorney General”. [Letter from former FBI Director, [1/20/15](#)]
- **Tom Manger, President of the Major Cities Chiefs Association, which represents the 67 largest local U.S. law enforcement agencies:** “As the head of this important office, Ms. Lynch has overseen many important criminal prosecutions for terrorism, organized crime, corruption, drug and gang-related cases. It is clear that her familiarity with the Department, managing a fast-paced and high profile office as well as her integrity and private sector legal experiences make her a qualified candidate.” [Letter from MCCA, [1/8/15](#)]

Loretta Lynch is a Proven Leader

Ms. Lynch has spent half of her thirty-year legal career as a federal prosecutor. During that time she has proven to be an independent prosecutor who is able to work effectively with law enforcement officials and with crime victims, and to fairly enforce the law. She has fought to protect civil and human rights, and prosecuted hate crimes. She has prosecuted cases against those who have harmed police officers, as well as police officers who have broken the law. [DOJ, accessed [1/29/15](#); Politico, [1/21/15](#)]

- **Current and former Republican, Democratic, and Independent Presidents of the Federal Bar Council:** “Loretta Lynch would be an excellent Attorney General

because “she is a person of great character, integrity and judgment who will uphold the high standards for the Justice Department in ensuring the fair, impartial and non-political administration of justice for all Americans.” [Letter from Federal Bar Council, [1/14/15](#)]

- **Former U.S. Attorneys for the Eastern District of New York**, in a December 3, 2014 letter to Senate Judiciary Committee leadership: “She is deeply committed to making our communities safer and our justice system effective, efficient and, above all, fair.” [Letter from former EDNY U.S. Attorneys, [12/3/14](#)]
- **Current and former partners at Hogan & Hartson (now Hogan Lovells US LLP)**, in a January 15, 2015 letter to Judiciary Committee leadership: “She can be firm, but is not inflexible; she has good judgment, but is not judgmental; she is persistent and sticks to the agenda, but she has not hidden agendas. She is fundamentally apolitical.” [Letter from Hogan Lovells, [1/15/15](#)]
- **Paul Fishman, U.S. Attorney for the District of New Jersey**: “It’s never about Loretta,” said Paul J. Fishman, the United States attorney in New Jersey. “It’s always about the work.” [New York Times, [1/12/15](#)]
- **The Wall Street Journal**: “Few federal prosecutors have criminally charged as many senior elected Democrats as Ms. Lynch.” [WSJ, [11/14](#)]

Loretta Lynch’s Effectiveness as a Law Enforcement Leader Has Been Widely Recognized

Ms. Lynch’s ability to work successfully with law enforcement officials has earned her a number of awards from law enforcement agencies including: the United States Secret Service Director’s Recognition Award, 2001; the United States Customs Service United States Customs Ensign Plaque, 2001; the United States Postal Inspection Service Presentation of Badges, 2001; the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms New York Field Division Expression of Appreciation, 2001; the New York City Police Department of Internal Affairs Division Expression of Appreciation, 2001; the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association Foundation Honoree of the Year, 2011; the American Academy for Professional Law Enforcement Long Island Chapter Appreciation Award, 2011; the NOBLE Appreciation and Lloyd Sealy Awards, 2012; and the Women in Federal Law Enforcement Foundation President’s Award, 2014. [Senate Judiciary Committee Questionnaire for Non-Judicial Nominees, [12/01/14](#)]

Loretta Lynch’s nomination to be the U.S. Attorney General has been enthusiastically supported by local, state, and federal law enforcement officials.

- **New York City Police Commissioner Bill Bratton**: “Loretta Lynch is a remarkable prosecutor with a clear sense of justice without fear or favor. She has prosecuted the most serious terrorist plots against New York City since 9-11. She has led the investigations into violent street gangs, as well as complex, and multi-million dollar cyber crews.” [NYPD, [11/8/14](#)]
- **Former Nassau County District Attorney Kathleen M. Rice**: “Like all good prosecutors, Ms. Lynch is not a partisan figure, and allows the law – not politics – to guide her as she serves as an advocate for Americans.” [Letter to Senate Leadership, [11/17/14](#)]

- **New York State Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman:** “U.S. Attorney Lynch has time and time again demonstrated her commitment to ensuring there is one set of rules for everyone and to defending the principle of equal justice for all.” [Office of the New York Attorney General, [11/10/14](#)]
- **Jon Adler, National President of the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association:** “In light of the turbulent climate confronting law enforcement, we need a strong leader like U.S. Attorney Lynch to bring a calm, well-informed perspective to the Attorney General position.” [FLEOA, [1/22/15](#)]
- **FBI Agents Association:** “The FBIAA appreciates the importance of Attorney General leadership, and we look forward to working with Ms. Lynch, who has been a strong supporter of FBI Agents from her days as a trial attorney to her time as United States Attorney for the Eastern District of New York.” [FBI Agents Association, [11/7/14](#)]
- **Former Associate Attorney General Tony West:** “You’d be hard-pressed to come up with anyone better qualified or more prepared to be the nation’s next attorney general.” [Chicago Tribune, [11.7.14](#)]
- **Former U.S. Attorneys for the Eastern District of New York:** “Through her work, we came to know Loretta as a smart, hard-working, eloquent and dedicated prosecutor who, through a low-key and even-tempered approach, developed a strong record of success and garnered great respect within the law enforcement and legal communities.” [Letter from Former EDNY U.S. Attorneys, [1/3/14](#)]

Loretta Lynch’s Confirmation Would Mark a Historic Moment. If confirmed, she would be the first African American woman to serve as the U.S. Attorney General. One woman and one African American, have served in the Attorney General post before her. If confirmed, it would also be “the first time in almost two centuries that a U.S. Attorney would have been directly elevated to Attorney General.” [CNN, [11/7/14](#); Letter from former U.S. Attorneys, [1/22/15](#); MSNBC, [11/8/14](#)]